



TIME AND TIME AGAIN!



663
MAR 91
US \$1.00
CAN \$1.25
UK 50P

1991
9

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

BY
STEVE
MELOD

BUY
WAR
BONDS
TODAY



The Amazing
SAMSON



WORLD'S STRONGEST



GUEST-STARRING THE
**JUSTICE
SOCIETY**
of America!

DRINK 5¢
SODER
Cola

IT BEGAN IN
METROPOLIS...

...WHEN THE HIGH-
FLYING BOOSTER GOLD
WAS AMBUSHED BY A
TIME TRAVELER WHO
CALLED HIMSELF THE
LINEAR MAN...

...AND RESCUED BY
THE MAN OF STEEL...
SUPERMAN!

ACME
STORAGE

WASTE
INC.

BUT THEN THINGS
STARTED GOING WRONG.

SUPERMAN AND HIS CAPTIVE
WERE SWEEPED INTO A RUNAWAY
TIME VORTEX... AND VAN-
ISHED FROM OUR TIME!

WHEN SUPERMAN REGAINED HIS SENSES, THE
LINEAR MAN WAS GONE... AND HIS SURROUNDINGS
HAD CHANGED CONSIDERABLY.

HE FOUND HIMSELF IN
EARTH'S 30TH CENTURY,
ASSISTING THE FOUNDING
MEMBERS OF THE LEGION
OF SUPER-HEROES...

...OF WHOM HE MADE
AN UNUSUAL REQUEST...

Y-YOU WANT
US TO TELL YOU
ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE?

YES. IS THERE ANY RECORD
OF HOW LONG I LIVED, AFTER
I RETURNED TO THE 20TH
CENTURY?

WELL,
UH...

IT'S
IMPORTANT
THAT I--!

I DID
RETURN...
DIDN'T I?

THAT MAY BE DIFFICULT
TO ANSWER, SIR. THE
20TH CENTURY WAS A
THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
THE WARS--!

OUR RECORDS OF THAT
PERIOD ARE SPOTTY, SUPER-
MAN. YOUR EXPLOITS HAVE
BECOME THE STUFF OF
LEGEND. BUT EVEN IF WE
KNEW... ON!

WHAT'S
WRONG,
WRA?

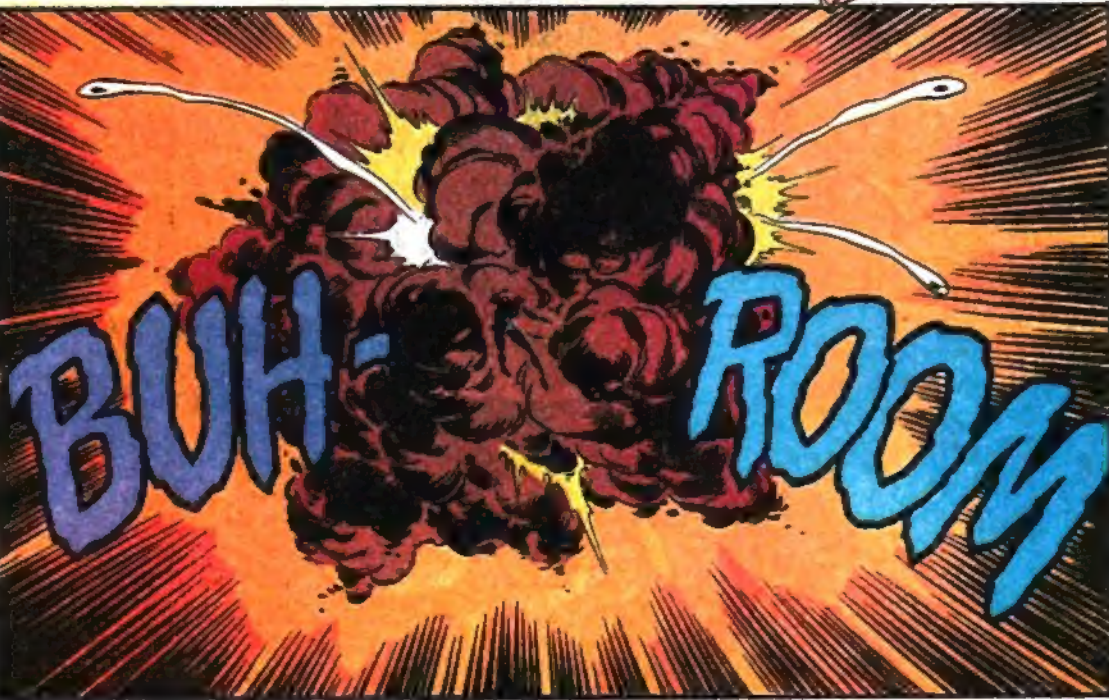
TECHNICIANS
BELOW ARE
EVACUATING--THEY
FOUND A SECOND-
ARY FIRE UNDER
THE MAIN FUEL
STORAGE!

WHAT?
HOW CAN YOU
KNOW--?

SHE'S A
TELEPATH--
SHE KNOWS!

I SEE IT
NOW! GET TO
COVER--

--ALL OF
YOU! I DON'T
KNOW IF I CAN
EXTINGUISH IT
BEFORE--!



SUPERMAN

Created by
JOHN SHELLEY &
JOE SHUSTER

IN HIS LIFE HE HAS SURVIVED
MANY EXPLOSIONS... OF EVERY-
THING FROM A SINGLE STICK
OF DYNAMITE TO A FORTY MEGA-
TON THERMONUCLEAR BOMB!

BUT NEVER HAS AN
EXPLOSION YIELDED
ANYTHING SUCH
AS THIS.

FOR SUPERMAN, IT
IS AS THOUGH HIS
ENTIRE CONSCIOUS-
NESS WAS TURNED
INSIDE OUT... AS IF
THE UNIVERSE
SUDDENLY WENT
AWAY...

...AND TIME LOST
ALL MEANING.

TIME & TIME AGAIN PHASE TWO **LOST** IN THE '40s TONIGHT

ROGER
STERN
WRITER

BOB
MCLEOD
ARTIST

BILL
OAKLEY
LETTERER

GLENN
WHITMORE
COLORIST

DAN
THORSLAND
ASSISTANT

MIKE
CARLIN
EDITOR



LATER...

WHERE'D
THAT FARMER
SAY HE FOUND
'IM?

'BOUT
TEN MILES
SOUTH 'A
WENONA.

CHEE,
WHAT A SWELL
OUTFIT!

UNNNNGH?

HEY, HE'S
COMIN'
AROUND!



YOU OKAY,
BUDDY?

BOY, YOU WERE OUT
LIKE A LIGHT! WHAT
HAPPENED?

NO MARKS
ON 'IM. PROB'LY
TOO MUCH
HOOCH.



SHORTY!
WHAT A
THING
TO SAY!

EXCUSE ME
BUT... IS ONE
OF YOU... A
CLOWN?

WELL, THERE'S
NUTHIN' WRONG
WITH HIS EYES!



NO... I'M
AFRAID
THERE
IS!

MUH?



EVERYTHING'S A
SOFT BLUR. THERE
WAS AN EXPLOSION
—COLORS— MUST'VE
AFFECTED MY
VISION.

I TAKE
IT... I'M AT A
CIRCUS?

YEAH, SOME FARMER
THOUGHT YOU MUST BE
ONE OF US.

WHAT?
HE DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE
ME? I KNOW
MY UNIFORM'S
CHANGED
COLOR, BUT--!

HEY, WE DON'T
RECOGNIZE YA! WHY
SHOULD WE? ARE
YOU SOME BIG
SHOT?

DON'T
MIND HIM,
HANDSOME.

ARE YOU
AN ACROBAT
OR AN
AERIALIST?





I'M SUPERMAN. YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ME?

CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE, SPORT. HOW LONG AGO WAS THIS ACCIDENT OF YOURS?

I'M ... NOT SURE.

WELL, YOU MUST'VE HAD THOSE BUM EYES FOR A WHILE... THEY'D HAVE KEPT YA OUTTA THE DRAFT?

DRAFT?

WHAT ARE YOU--?

GOOD LORD!

EASY... E-EASY THERE...

BEFORE ANYONE CAN STOP HIM, THE MAN OF STEEL DIVES THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE TENT, GUIDED MAINLY BY THE SOUND AND SMELL OF THE BIG CAT...

YOU! OVER HERE!

GET BACK! HE'S GONNA--

GRARRRRR

NOOO!!



IT'S ALL RIGHT! I HAVE HIM!

ARE YOU OKAY?

I-I-I THINK SO.

RUHRRR?

I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL. CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO AN EMPTY CAGE?



Y-YES SIR... 'BOUT FIFTEEN FEET TO YOUR RIGHT.

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT... NOT IN ALL MY BORN DAYS!



THERE WE GO, LEO... IT'LL BE MUCH SAFER WITH YOU IN HERE!

KLANK

RRRRRR



HERE HE IS, NATE... HERE'S OUR SUPER-MAN!

SON, I'M NATHAN HILL, THE OWNER OF THIS LITTLE SHOW! I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

NO THANKS ARE NECESSARY, MR. HILL. I DO WHAT I CAN.



LOOKS TO ME THAT YOU CAN DO PLENTY. THIS CIRCUS COULD USE A MAN LIKE YOU... WE'VE LOST SO MANY TO THE WAR EFFORT.

THE WAR--?

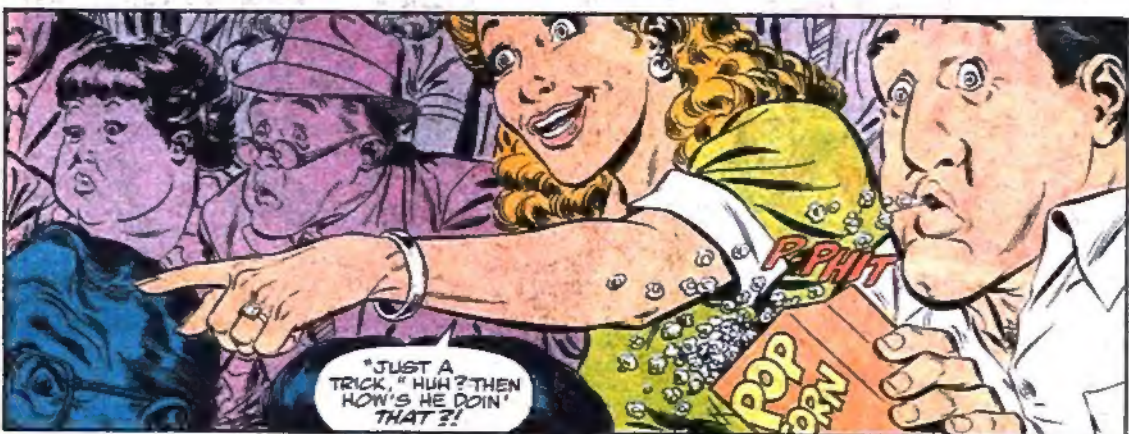
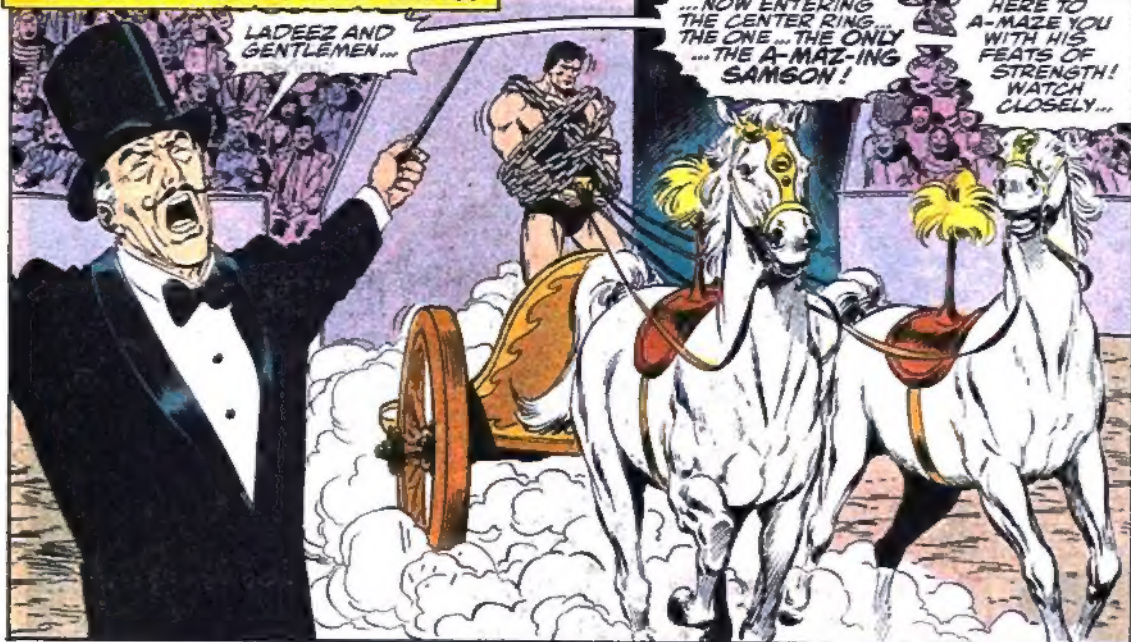
MR. HILL, THIS MAY SOUND ODD, BUT DO YOU HAVE A CALENDAR?



WHY, YES...



"-I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE MYSELF USEFUL."



YES... THIS IS
HOW SAMSON GIVES
HIS PAL, HANNIBAL
THE ELEPHANT, A
LIFT AFTER A
HARD DAY'S
WORK!

DON'T
HOLD YOUR
BREATH, FOLKS
-- SAMSON
COULD DO THIS
ALL DAY!!

SOUNDS
LIKE I'M A HIT.
AT LEAST I'M
STILL GOOD FOR
SOMETHING...

...EVEN IF
IT'S JUST
GIVING PEOPLE
A FEW MOMENTS
OF ENTERTAINMENT.

AND
THERE'S
MORE TO
COME...



-THIS IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING!

Special Boot.
CIRCUS

The Amazing
SAMSON

CINCINNATI

PHILADELPHIA

CHICAGO

HELP
OVER!

Western Union

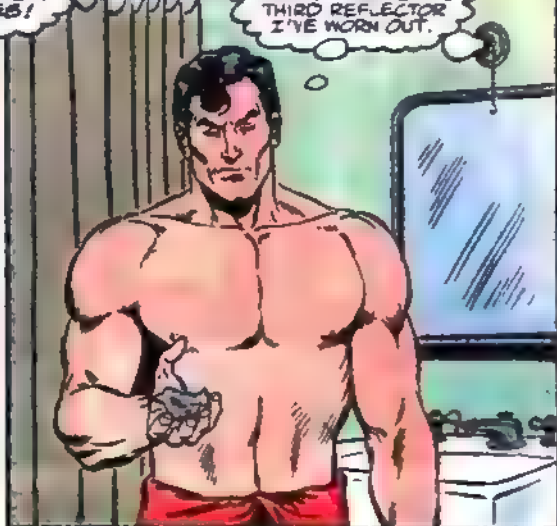
FIELD OVER IN PHILLY EXTRA
WEEK. CAN'T MAKE METROPOLIS
BEFORE JUNE 3RD. - NATE

...CIRCUS LIFE IS NEARLY STARTING TO FEEL NORMAL AFTER TWO MONTHS ON THE ROAD.

I COULD ALMOST DISMISS MY PAST LIFE AS A DREAM...

...IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO SHAVE USING HEAT BEAMS... REFLECTED FROM MY OWN EYES!

I WISH THIS ERA PRODUCED A MORE HEAT-RESISTANT METAL. THAT'S THE THIRD REFLECTOR I'VE WORN OUT.



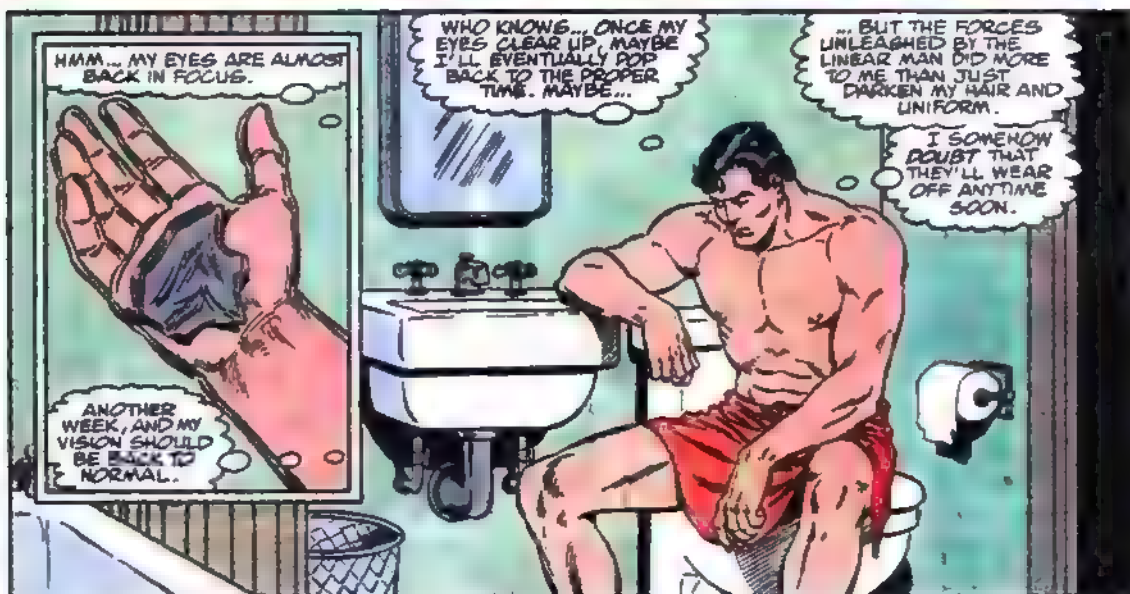
HMM... MY EYES ARE ALMOST BACK IN FOCUS.

WHO KNOWS... ONCE MY EYES CLEAR UP, MAYBE I'LL EVENTUALLY POP BACK TO THE PROPER TIME... MAYBE...

... BUT THE FORCES UNLEASHED BY THE LINEAR MAN DID MORE TO ME THAN JUST DARKEN MY HAIR AND UNIFORM.

I SOMEHOW DOUBT THAT THEY'LL WEAR OFF ANYTIME SOON.

ANOTHER WEEK, AND MY VISION SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL.



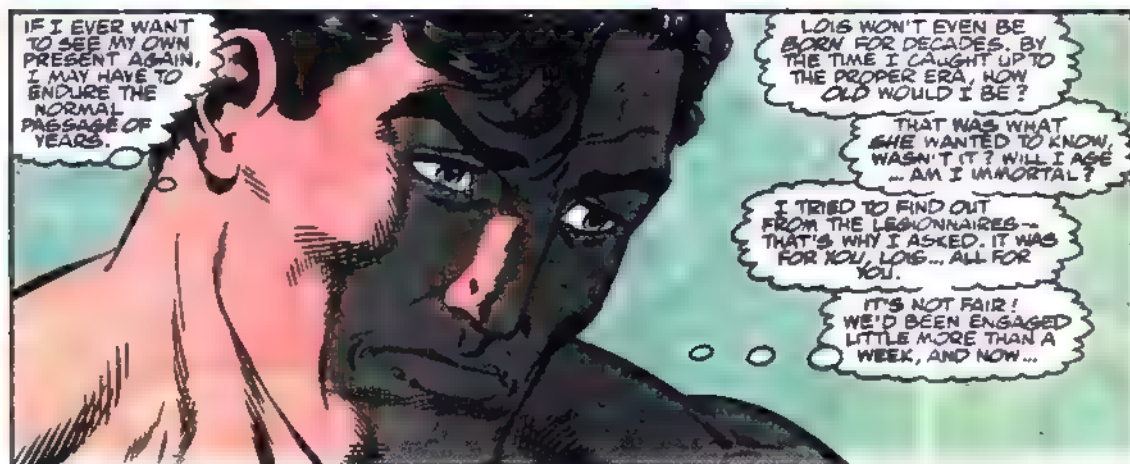
IF I EVER WANT TO SEE MY OWN PRESENT AGAIN, I MAY HAVE TO ENDURE THE NORMAL PASSAGE OF YEARS.

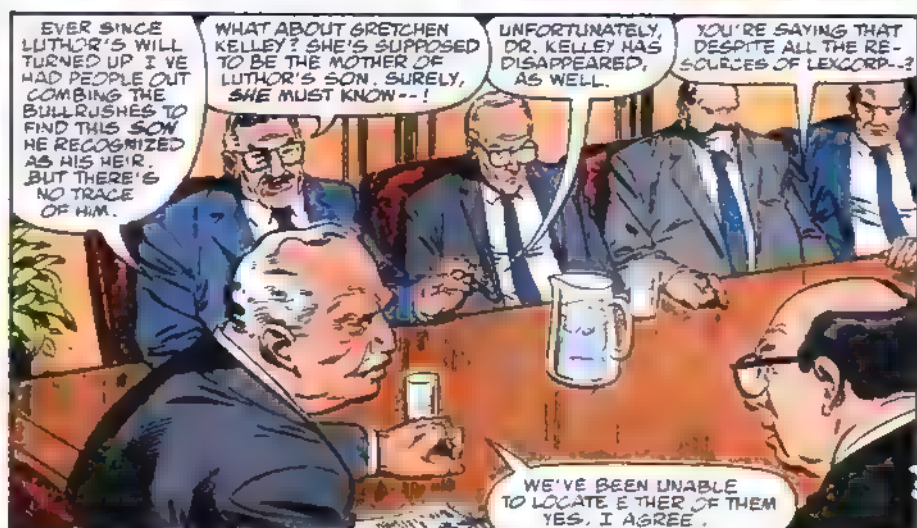
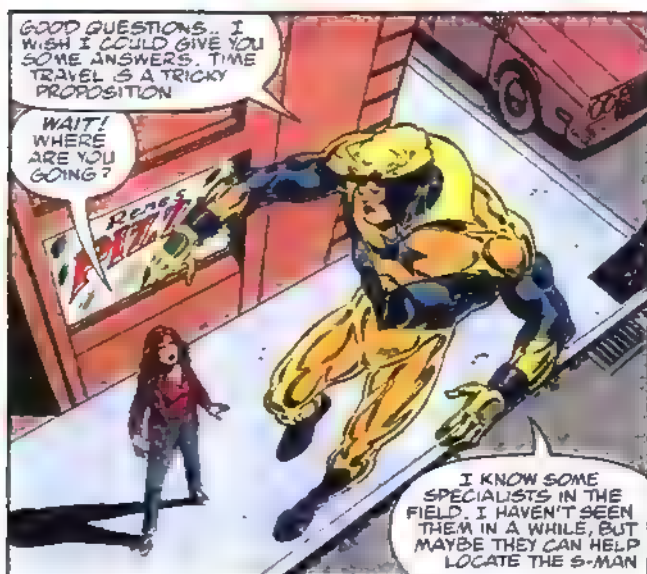
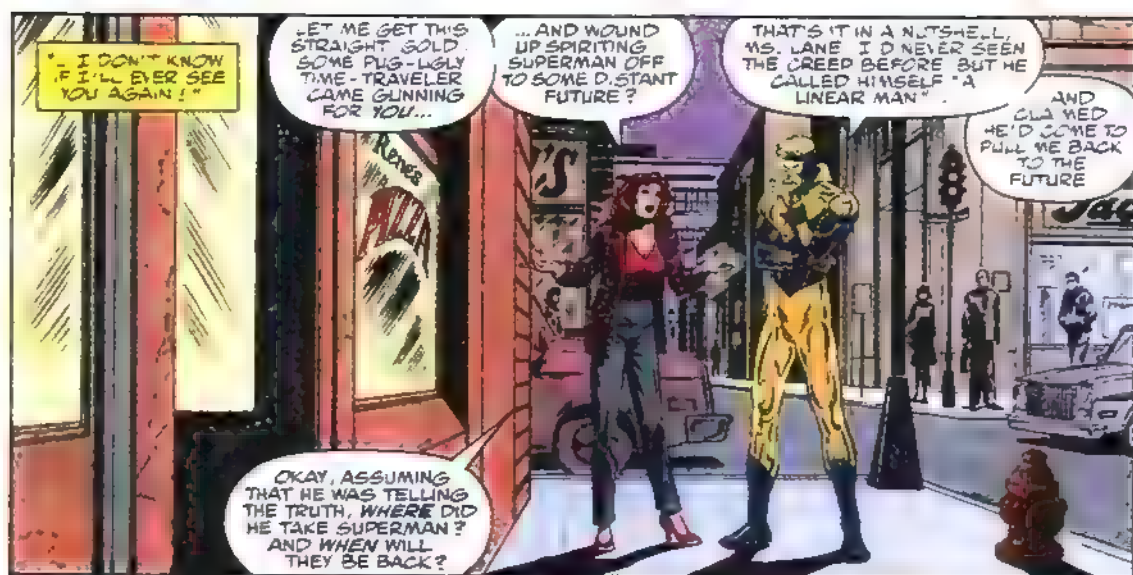
LOIS WON'T EVEN BE BORN FOR DECADES, BY THE TIME I CAUGHT UP TO THE PROPER ERA, HOW OLD WOULD I BE?

THAT WAS WHAT SHE WANTED TO KNOW, WASN'T IT? WILL I AGE... AM I IMMORTAL?

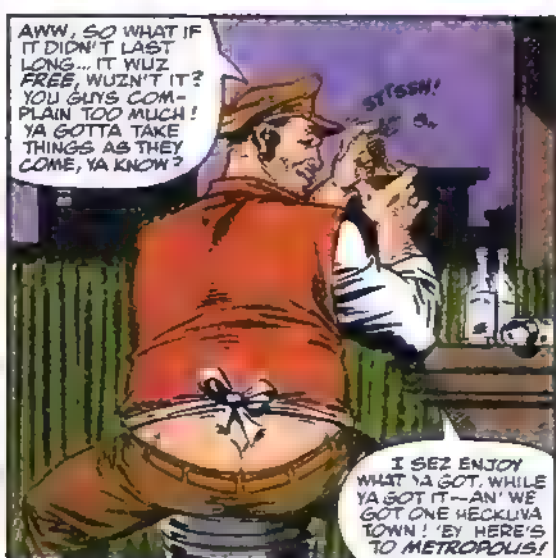
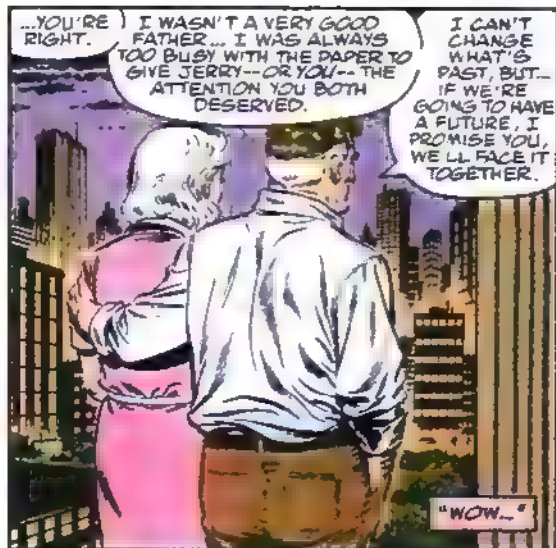
I TRIED TO FIND OUT FROM THE LEGIONNAIRES... THAT'S WHY I ASKED. IT WAS FOR YOU, LOIS... ALL FOR YOU.

IT'S NOT FAIR! WE'D BEEN ENGAGED LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK, AND NOW...





"...IT'S ALL QUITE MADDENING!"



METROPOLIS.

NOT AS BIG IN 1943
AS IT WILL BE IN MY
DAY, BUT I'D KNOW IT
ANYWHERE. THERE'RE THE
CASSIDY TOWERS... THE
YARDROUGH BUILDING...

...AND THE
DAILY PLANET.
LORD, BUT I'VE
MISSED IT!

HEY,
SAMSON--IS
IT TRUE WHAT
I HEAR? YOU'RE
LEAVIN' US?

I'M AFRAID SO, ROLLO.
YOU'VE ALL BEEN GREAT
TO ME, BUT MY LIFE IS
WAITING FOR ME.

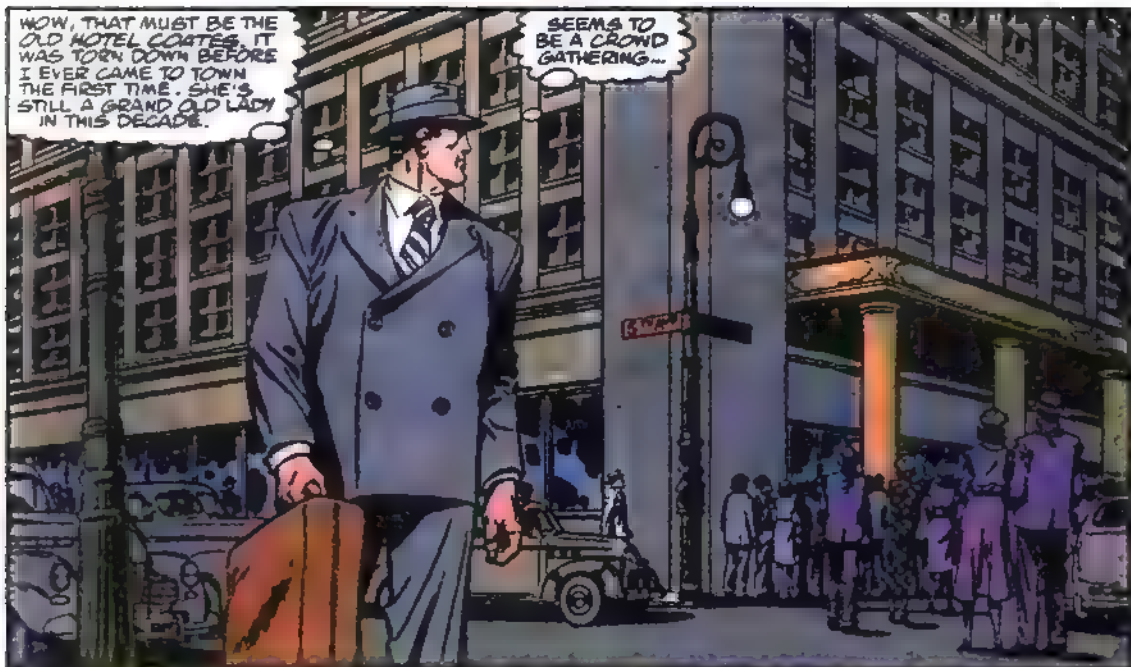
WELL,
YOU TAKE
CARE O'
YOURSELF.
IT CAN BE A
STRANGE OLD
WORLD OUT
THERE

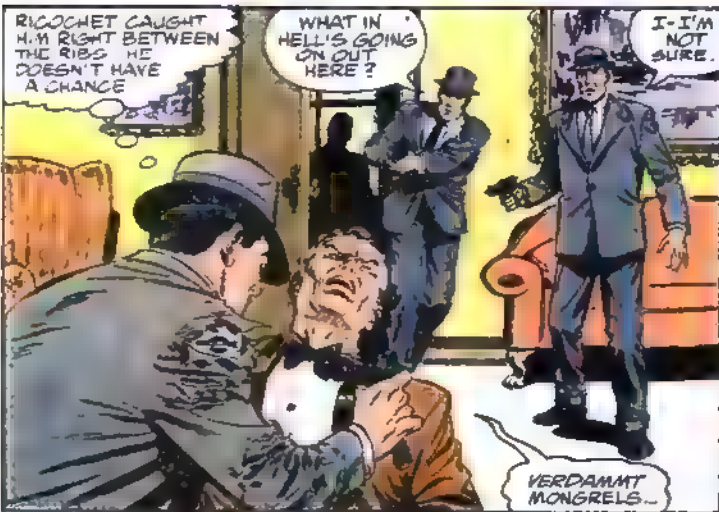
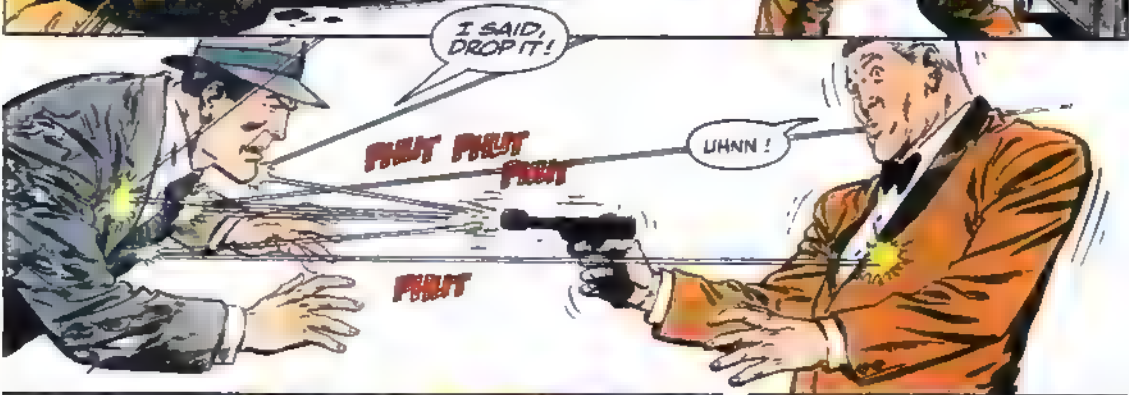
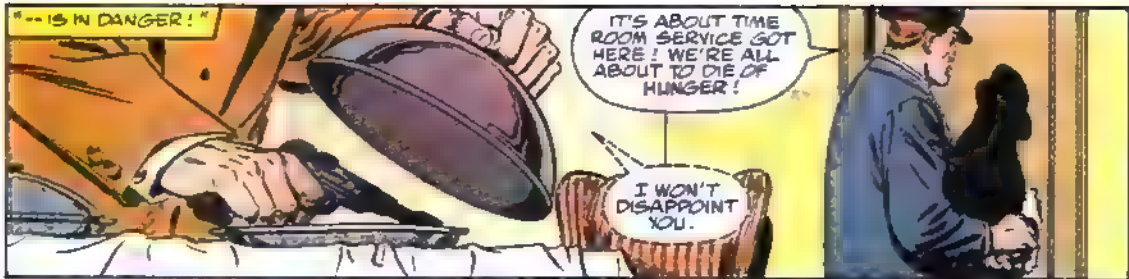
"A STRANGE
OLD WORLD."
YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT THAT,
ROLLO.

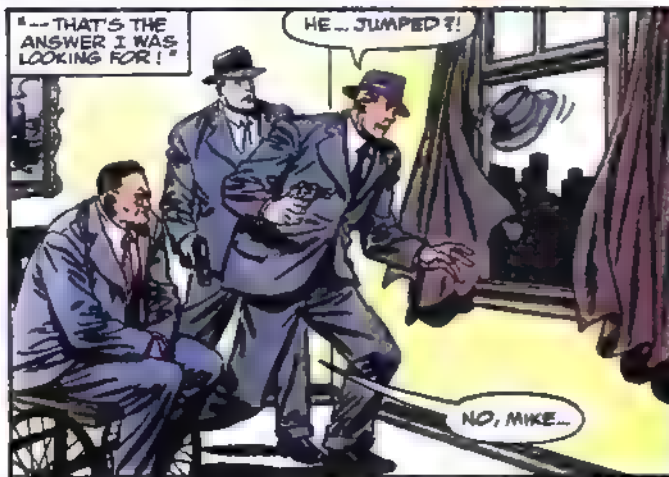
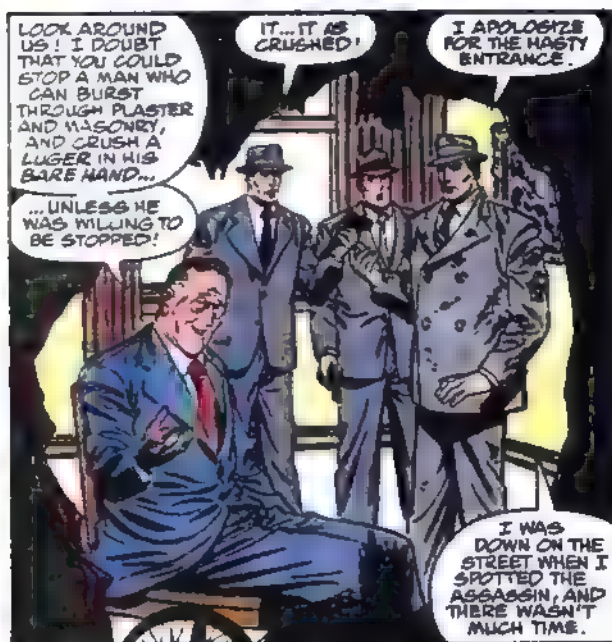
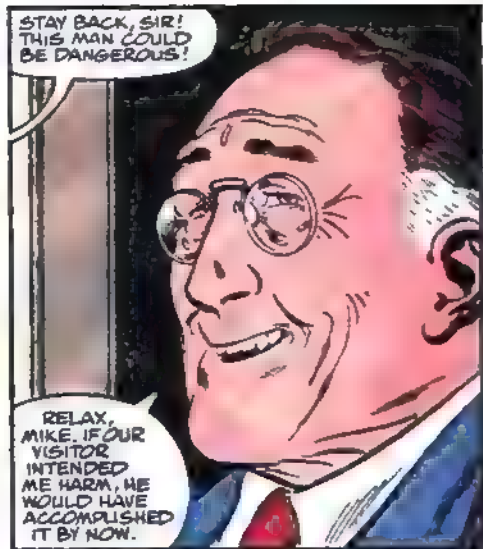
DOWNTOWN LOOKS
SO DIFFERENT AT
STREET LEVEL.

SO, WHAT DO I DO
WITH MYSELF NOW?

THERE'S A WAR
ON. I WONDER...HOW
WOULD HISTORY BE
AFFECTED IF I
ENLISTED?







"...I BELIEVE
HE FLEW!"

WHY DIDN'T I
THINK OF THIS
BEFORE?

BETWEEN THE TIME JUMPS
AND THE EXPLOSION--AND THE
SHOCK OF FINDING MYSELF
HALF-BLIND-- I REALLY
WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY.

TO THINK... THAT
I ACTUALLY MET
FDR... SHOOK HIS
HAND-- EVEN SAVED
HIS LIFE!

OR DID I?

WAS I MEANT TO
SAVE ROOSEVELT?
WOULD HISTORY HAVE
BEEN CHANGED IF I
HADN'T BEEN IN
THIS TIME?

OR WOULD THOSE
SECRET SERVICE AGENTS
HAVE STOPPED THE
ASSASSIN? I PROBABLY...
THEY REACTED QUICKLY...
BUT MY ACTION MAY HAVE
KEPT AN AGENT FROM
GETTING WOUNDED.

I WONDER SHOULD
I HAVE WARNED THE
PRESIDENT TO BE
MORE CAREFUL OF
HIS HEALTH.

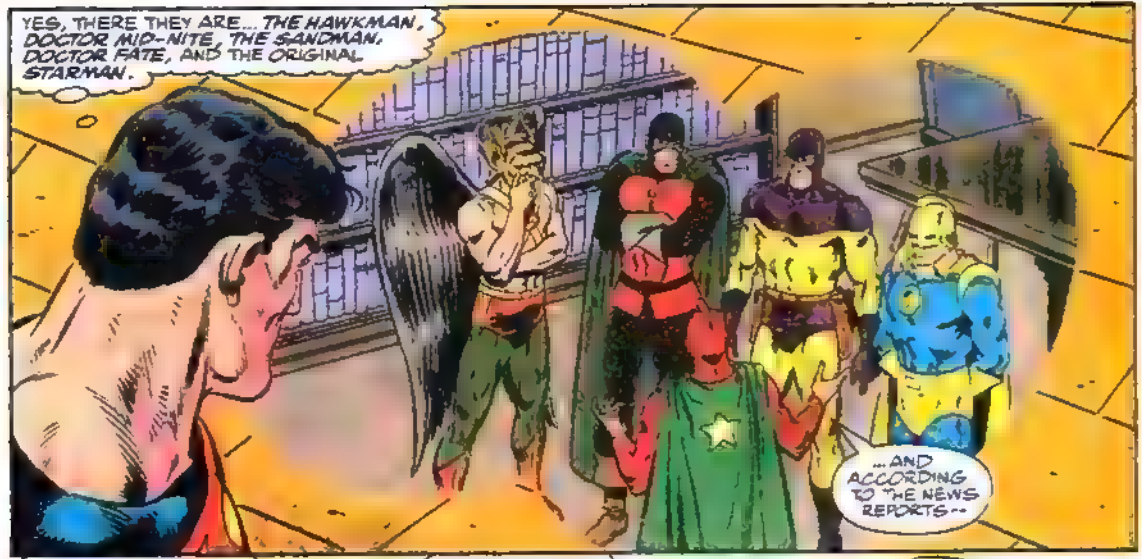
... COULD HE AVOID OR LESSEN
THE CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE
WHICH WILL KILL HIM? CAN HIS
HISTORY BE CHANGED? PERHAPS
SOME OF THE PEOPLE I'M
LOOKING FOR CAN SUPPLY
AN ANSWER.

EARLY IN MY
CAREER, I MET
SOME FOUNDING
MEMBERS OF THE
JUSTICE SOCIETY
OF AMERICA--

--BUT THIS
WAS... IS...
THEIR
HEYDAY.

FROM WHAT I'VE
READ, THEY'D REORGAN-
IZED AS THE JUSTICE
BATTALION AT THIS POINT
IN TIME, AND WERE MEET-
ING IN WASHINGTON
... HERE AT THE
SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE!

YES, THERE THEY ARE... THE HAWKMAN, DOCTOR MID-NITE, THE SANDMAN, DOCTOR FATE, AND THE ORIGINAL STARMAN.



...AND ACCORDING TO THE NEWS REPORTS--

--THIS "THINKER" CHARACTER WHOM THE FLASH STOPPED WAS ACTUALLY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF KEY-STONE CITY

I NEVER CEASE TO BE AMAZED BY THE DEPTHS TO WHICH SOME OFFICIALS CAN SINK.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, HAWK. FEW THINGS ARE AS GALLING AS THE VIOLATION OF A PUBLIC TRUST.

SOME-THING WRONG, FATE?



I'M NOT SURE. I SUDDENLY GOT THE FEELING THAT WE WERE BEING WATCHED!

HOW ABOUT THAT? AS I RECALL, DR. FATE'S MYSTIC POWERS WERE AT A LOW EBB BY THIS YEAR... BUT HIS SENSES ARE STILL KEEN ENOUGH TO DETECT MY SNOOPING.

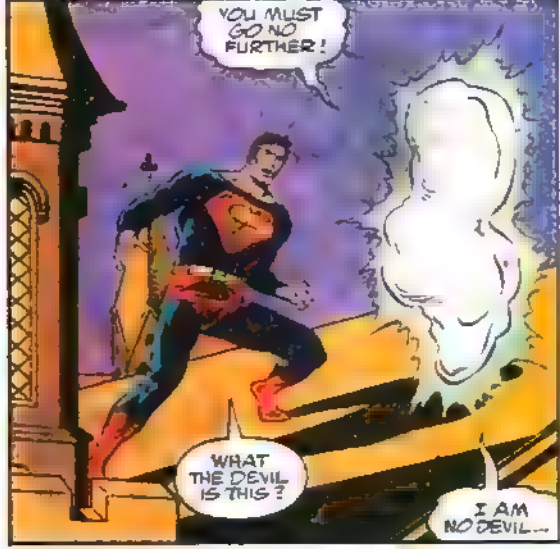
THESE ARE DEFINITELY THE MEN I WANT TO--!



NO!

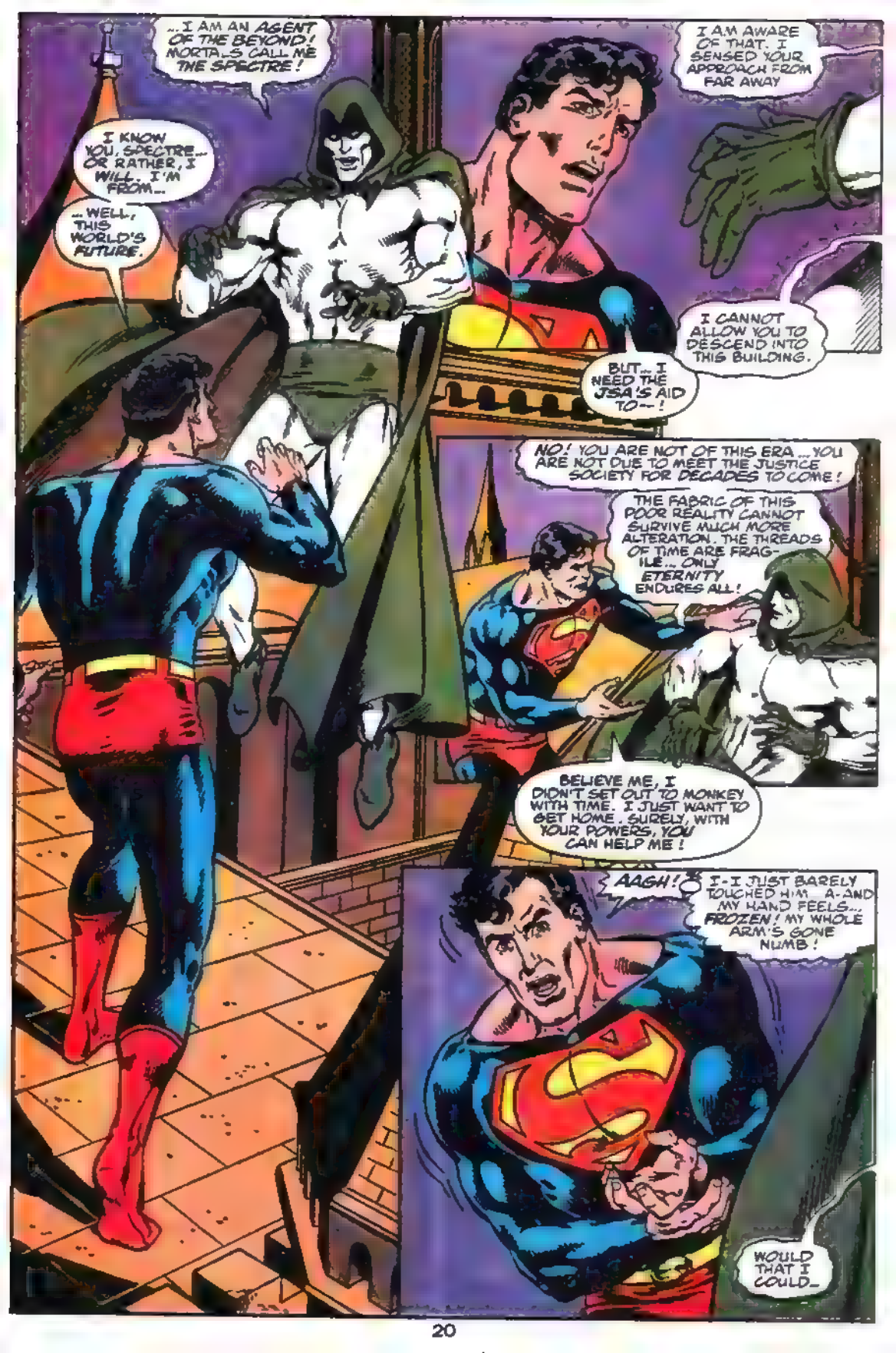
EH?!

YOU MUST GO NO FURTHER!



WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS?

I AM NO DEVIL...



...I AM AN AGENT
OF THE BEYOND!
MORTALS CALL ME
THE SPECTRE!

I AM AWARE
OF THAT. I
SENSED YOUR
APPROACH FROM
FAR AWAY

I KNOW
YOU, SPECTRE...
OR RATHER, I
WILL. I'M
FROM...

...WELL,
THIS
WORLD'S
FUTURE.

I CANNOT
ALLOW YOU TO
DESCEND INTO
THIS BUILDING.

BUT... I
NEED THE
JSA'S AID
TO--!

NO! YOU ARE NOT OF THIS ERA... YOU
ARE NOT DUE TO MEET THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY FOR DECADES TO COME!

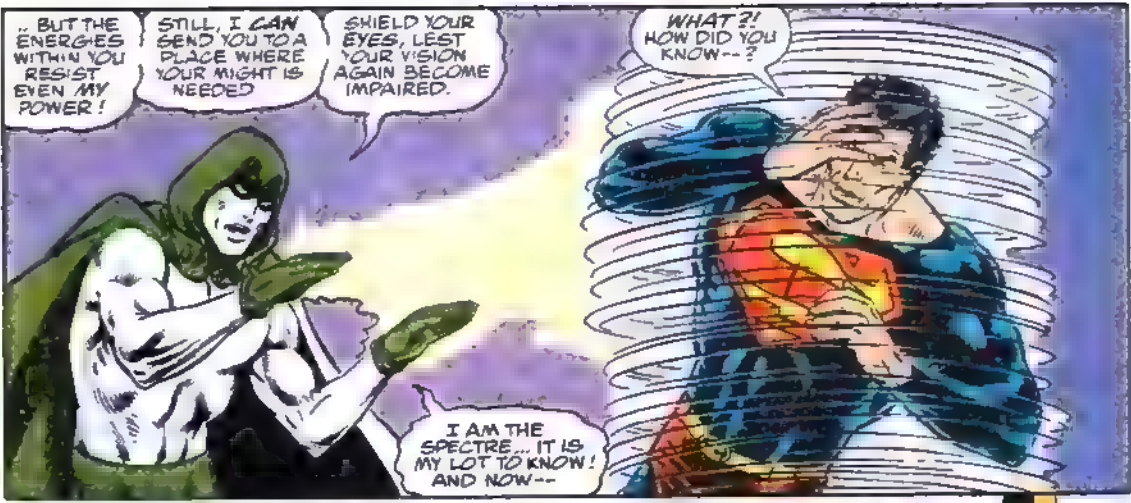
THE FABRIC OF THIS
POOR REALITY CANNOT
SURVIVE MUCH MORE
ALTERATION. THE THREADS
OF TIME ARE FRAG-
ILE... ONLY
ETERNITY
ENDURES ALL!

BELIEVE ME, I
DIDN'T SET OUT TO MONKEY
WITH TIME. I JUST WANT TO
GET HOME. SURELY, WITH
YOUR POWERS, YOU
CAN HELP ME!

AAGH!

I-I JUST BARELY
TOUCHED HIM... A-AND
MY HAND FEELS...
FROZEN! MY WHOLE
ARM'S GONE
NUMB!

WOULD
THAT I
COULD...



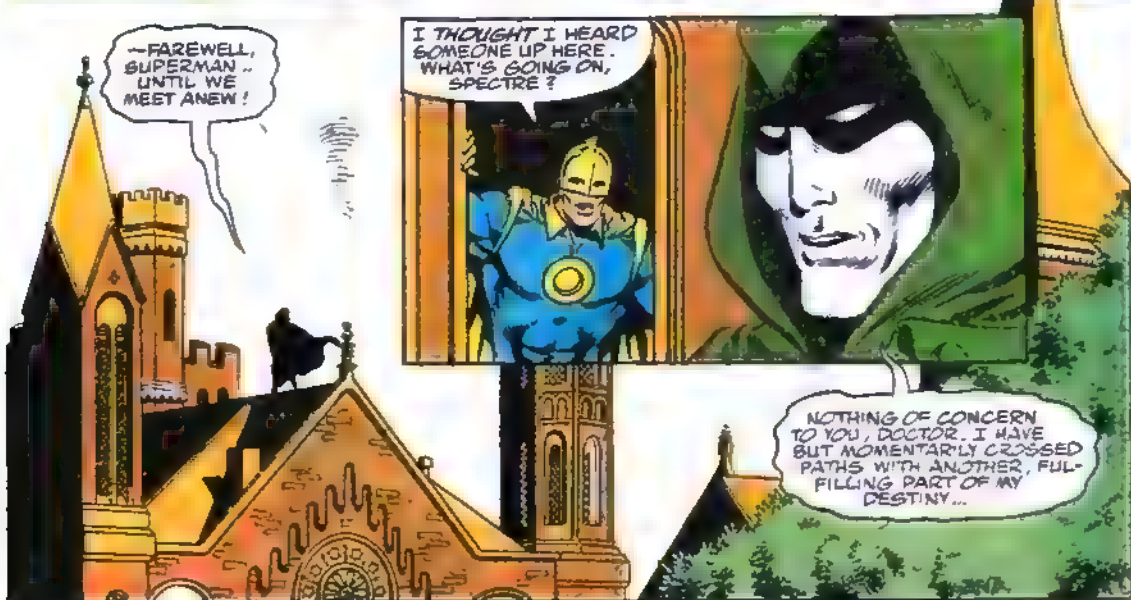
... BUT THE ENERGIES WITHIN YOU RESIST EVEN MY POWER!

STILL, I CAN SEND YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOUR MIGHT IS NEEDED

SHIELD YOUR EYES, LEST YOUR VISION AGAIN BECOME IMPAIRED.

WHAT?! HOW DID YOU KNOW--?

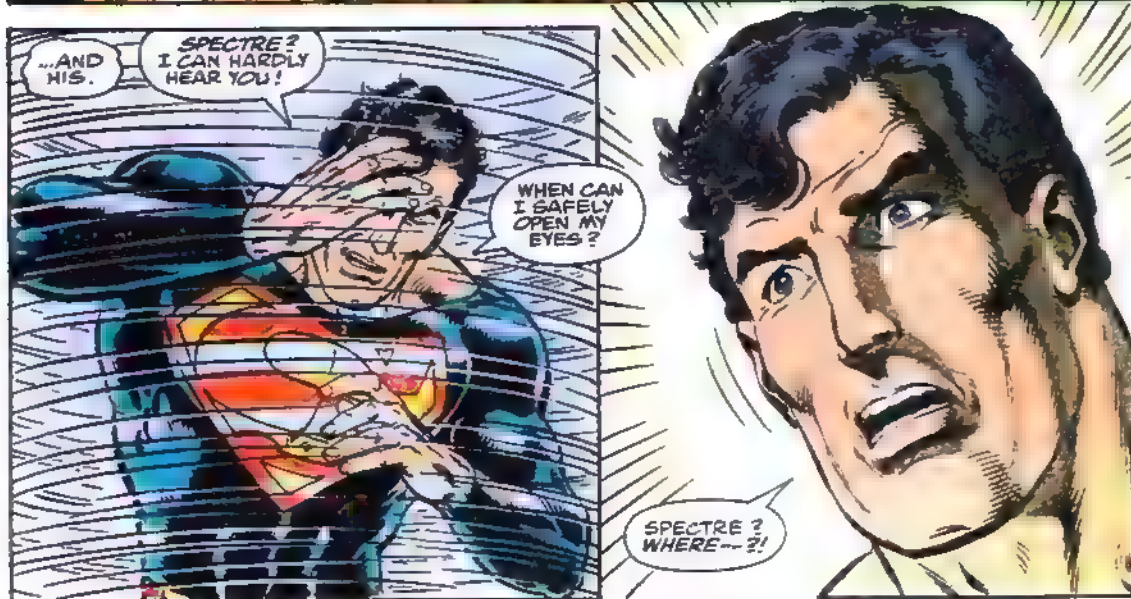
I AM THE SPECTRE... IT IS MY LOT TO KNOW! AND NOW--



~FAREWELL, SUPERMAN~ UNTIL WE MEET ANEW!

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE UP HERE. WHAT'S GOING ON, SPECTRE?

NOTHING OF CONCERN TO YOU, DOCTOR. I HAVE BUT MOMENTARILY CROSSED PATHS WITH ANOTHER, FULFILLING PART OF MY DESTINY...



...AND HIS.

SPECTRE? I CAN HARDLY HEAR YOU!

WHEN CAN I SAFELY OPEN MY EYES?

SPECTRE? WHERE--?!



WHAT
NEXT!
FIND
OUT IN...

SUPERMAN
#54

ON SALE IN 2 WEEKS!

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

#477

ON SALE IN 3 WEEKS!

ACTION

COMICS #664

ON SALE IN 4 WEEKS!

RESERVE
YOUR
COPIES
TODAY!

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS INC.
1900 Fitch Avenue, New York, NY 10008

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief
DICK GORDANO, VP-Editorial Director
MIKE CARLIN, Editor
DAN THORSLAND, Assistant Editor
JIM CHADWICK, Director-Design Services
JOE ORLANDO, VP-Creative Director
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive VP & Publisher
BRUCE BRISTOW, VP-Sales & Marketing
PATRICK CALDON, VP & Controller
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, Dir.-Editorial Administration
CHANTAL D'AUJUNE, VP-Business Affairs
LILLIAN LASERSON, VP-Legal Affairs
MATTHEW RAGONE, Circulation Director
BOB ROZAKIS, Production Director

Dear Mike:
Re: ACTION COMICS #659

Here's a professional occupation for Mr. Mxyzptik—tattle-tale. The imp went and ruined a perfectly good scam, one that tops every one of his own scams and Fats Luthor's, too, just to negate what advantage Starman gave Superman. Hmhm. Just like dealing with the devil himself. Speaking of Starman, his little "boo-boo" with Lois may have some ill effects for the now-powerless Supes when the man himself meets Lois again.

I checked my memory banks and can find no previous knowledge of Thad Killgrave. Having no footnotes didn't make matters easier, either. Geez, just when Superman has a hassle bigger than life to deal with, some geek shows up to make things worse. That's right, I said "geek," 'cause that's all Killgrave is—a geek smart enough to become Superman's numero uno enemy if Lardo Luthor does indeed buy the farm (and somehow, I don't buy that concept, not even for the Brooklyn Bridge).

I have but one request (and you've heard it before, but it bears repeating): GIVE GANGBUSTER HIS OWN BOOK—SOON! Thanks for listening.

Jacob Gilbert
118 Fourth Street, Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Killgrave made his less-than-spectacular debut in SUPERMAN #19 and if you've been reading our Super-titles during the past few months, you've learned more about Killgrave. And Luthor is dead. History. Kaput. Gone 'bye-bye. (Kind of.)

Dear Active Ones:

I certainly hope that Superman gets his powers back soon! If I want to spend all day watching people faking it, then I'll watch professional wrestling.

But I love Superman's super-suit. Where can I get one?

Mark Phillips
P.O. Box 1927
Johnson City, TN 37605

Sorry, but the Man of Steel's super-suit was tailored specifically for him and is not available in any store.

Dear Action Aces:

I suppose you're getting used to hearing praise for the current adventures of Superman, but I really mean

it. "Crisis of the Crimson Kryptonite" is the best extended Superman story in years, the height of the post-Crisis Superman's career. Everything in this story clicked—the script, the art, the characterization, and the adventure itself. "Breakout" was a gem.

At the heart of the epic, we see Superman weakened, but not ready to give up the fight. He's a man who does not let anything stop him. It's interesting to see him depend on a combination of wits, a willingness to ask for help, his native talent (his athletic ability and muscles didn't vanish with his super-strength), and a mystique almost as great as the Batman's. How many heroes these days are willing to call in friends and inspire such loyalty? Batman wouldn't know how to call in his friends in the Justice League if his life depended on it.

And what friends Superman has. It's refreshing to see young heroes like Starman give Superman the respect he deserves. I still recall the way Booster Gold once talked to Supes. (By the way, Roger Stern, you've created a star of the future in Starman.)

Gangbuster has grown on me, and he makes a good counterpoint to Superman's power and brightness. It's also great to see the Guardian in action on a regular basis. It's funny how much influence the King, Jack Kirby, is having on Superman these days, with the Newsboy Legion, Guardian, and Intergang back in action. It always comes back to Kirby which helps explain why you've done such a good job writing this series, Roger. After all those years of handling Kirby's marvelous creations, you're one of the best at using his DC stable. In addition, you still use a lighthearted approach to super-heroics that borrows from the classic Kirby works at both companies, while retaining a purely 1990's DC approach. And your script, with gems like Killgrave's fear-fraught chain of thought, ties it all together.

All around, we've had a great story under the glow of Red Kryptonite. I can't wait to see how this ends in SUPERMAN #50. And I'll see you in thirty.

Simon DeMonte
Queens, NY

Many comics professionals look to Jack Kirby as an inspiration. Simon. Jerry Ordway is particularly enamored of the King's "Fourth World" stories at DC, and both Roger Stern and editor Mike Carlin have worked on Kirby creations at Marvel.

Roger also thanks you for your praise of his work. (And no, we never tire of receiving praise!)

Dear Editor:

If it's any consolation for Lex Luthor, Starman fooled me, too. Glad to see this Red K serves merely as a conduit for Mr. Mxyzptik's powers. I wouldn't want a return to the "transformation of the month" Red Kryptonite stories of the past, thank you very much! I'm a bit surprised that Luthor and Mxyzptik are working together now...wasn't it Lex who fooled Mr. M. the last time he came to town? But it's not the first time enemies have banded together against a common foe.

It was pretty convenient that Supes was replaced by a hero who doesn't need to breathe just when a foe decides to use a vacuum chamber against the Man of Steel. It's nice that someone remembered that Superman isn't the only costumed hero in Metropolis and vicinity, too. We should see more of this team effort! And I loved Supes's unintentional psych-out of Killgrave on page 21!

Robert Kowalski
3878 Garvin Street
Detroit, MI 48212

We're glad you enjoyed ACTION #659—so glad, in fact, that we're sending you this month's awe-inspiring BALDY AWARD. Congratulations! Just what is a Baldy? It's...well, you've got to win one to find out, and the only way that'll happen is if you write the "best" letter of the month. Who decides what "best" is? We're not talkin'! We'd like to avoid possible payola scandals—if you know what we mean. All you need to know is that you've got to pick up your pens, feed a sheet of paper into your typewriter, or turn on your computer, and write us today about this issue of ACTION COMICS, to "earn" a coveted Baldy Award!

Dear Mike and the rest of the Super-Team:

First, a quibble—realizing as I do the marketing potential of a memorable title for a comic-book megastory, couldn't you have called this "Crisis of the Crimson Kryptonite"? I mean, it's not like the word "Crisis" doesn't have its own history at DC! But enough of the spelling corrections—on to the text.

When I first saw the cover of ACTION #659 in your four-panel house ad, I expected that, in this era of bringing back pre-Crisis super-villains and plot lines, you were going to re-create...THE SUPERMOBILE! Yes, there are a few of us who remember the vehicle Superman cooked up after battling Amazo. Truth to tell, I still have a Corgi Supermobile on a shelf somewhere in my parents' house—my two-year-old niece Rene really loves it. I expected of this new super-suit a flight pack, mechanically augmented muscles, and perhaps even the vision-augmenting binoculars of the Supermobile. What I found, thankfully, was none of the above. Instead, here was Superman making a valiant effort to stay alive and as intimidating as he had been before. And though he managed to do both, the suit still blew apart, leaving him almost fatally vulnerable to Killgrave. If it weren't for Sterman, Superman would be dead now. (It is particularly indicative of this version of Superman that he didn't build the super-armor himself—Professor Hamilton did. That's one of the endearing things about Superman, that he is not a super-genius on top of everything else. I can't honestly see anyone who had an education at Smallville High and Metro. U. being skilled enough in robotics to build something like that, can you?)

I categorically refuse to make any predictions about where the Clark/Lois story line is going, or even about what you'll do next with Clark. Since I doubt that he'll marry Lois, and since I know Lex is dying soon, these stories are basically set. But what about some of the other loose ends left hanging from previous tales? Like Jimmy's mom, and Jimmy himself, or Cat Grant, about whom we've heard very little since the Superman/Batman team-up, or the new Robin and how he might benefit from some training from an operative on the daytime side of the fence.

Jonathan Ezor
P.O. Box 8A
Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520

Jonathan, sometimes we take liberties with proper grammar and spelling in favor of creating catchy titles or slogans...we meant no offense.

Dear Mike:

Sorry, but that mechanical super-suit will never replace the real thing, not even if Superman has a tattered backpack after every fight. Of course, without it, Superman literally would be out of action, so, on a limited basis, I guess the suit serves its purpose. Luckily, it's being utilized in the cooler autumn months. The suit, whatever its merits, wouldn't be overly effective for July crimefighting.

If nothing else, Killgrave, like Mammoth and Barrage, has a grudging respect for Superman as a leg-

end. True, all three villains tried to kill him, but, in each case, backed off, fearing the response that ordinarily would've been sure to come. Now, if they'd only pick on, say, Gangbuster, someone without an intimidating reputation, I'm sure their success rate would rise astronomically.

This may be the only issue I can recall where someone took more physical abuse than José. Usually, Gangbuster's the first to get punched in the stomach or brained with a 2 x 4. Here, for once, even in a limited capacity, he gave more than he got. A definite surprise. See, by involving Gangbuster in a prison breakout story, I figured he was almost certainly hostage material.

Generally, I'm not wild about unnecessary team-ups, heroes with no real reason for being involved with one another. Yet you scored some points here, too. First, they actually were needed. Second, you didn't banner them all over the cover. Third, while they supported Superman, at no point did they overshadow him. It was still his story.

Okay, compared to the usual, the armor idea was a stark contrast. Fun's fun, but break out the Plaid Kryptonite and give the guy his real powers back. He's tried nearly everything else, and I can't see the inherent drama in Superman fighting evil with, as a last resort, economic sanctions.

Joe Frank
2700 N. Hayden Road #3020
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Plaid Kryptonite?

Most denizens of the DC Universe, good and bad, respect Superman as, as you call him, a legend. So do most people in the real world.

Plaid Kryptonite?

Gangbuster isn't quite the kicking-post hero he used to be—after graduating from the Metropolis Super-School of Hard Knocks, he's growing into quite a formidable force for good.

Plaid Kryptonite?

As we close this installment of "Re:Action," I'm sad to announce that this is my last Superman letters column for the foreseeable future. I've had a marvelous (whoops—bad

adjective for a DC employee) time reading and answering your mail for the past year-plus. I've wanted to write the Superman letters columns since I was a kid, and leaving these pages isn't easy. I'll soon be rambling about DC in a weekly column that'll appear in most of our titles, and hope to see you there. Till then, our trio (soon to be quartet) of super-creators will continue to take the Man of Steel to new heights, and I'll be reading and loving every minute of it along with the rest of you. Take care. (Plaid Kryptonite?)

—Michael Eury

NEXT IN SUPERMAN: You've met him in DC's DEMON series...now it's the Man of Steel's turn to come face to face with Merlin—the original master of the mystic arts! All in "Time and Time Again" Part Six! Also...part two of our new supporting feature starring the Newsboy Legion! Be there in two weeks with Jerry Ordway, Dennis Janke, and Karl Kesel for SUPERMAN #551

NEXT IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN: "Time and Time Again" comes to its timely conclusion! (Someone say, "It's about time!"?) Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding craft the explosive climax to the Man of Tomorrow's latest, greatest epic! Be here in three weeks for ADVENTURES #478...which also happens to guest-star the "current" Legion of Super-Heroes!

NEXT IN ACTION COMICS: Baron Sunday is free of Stryker's island and he's amassing an army to confront Superman—an army of the undead! Roger Stern and guest artist Tom Grummett (of NEW TITANS fame) bring you ACTION COMICS #664 in a measly four weeks!

This issue's cover was pencilled by Kerry Gammill, inked by Dennis Janke, and colored by Brett Breeding, from an idea by Roger Stern.

SUPERMAN

**COMES YOUR WAY
THREE TIMES MONTHLY!**

SUPERMAN / ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN / ACTION COMICS

BEASTCHARMING

Perennially purveying a plenitude of purty, prettified pictures to my peerless pals!

**HUMBLE
CONTRIBUTOR TO
#THECOMICRACK**

Queries? Requests? Contact me at
BeastCharming@yahoo.com

Pledged to scan all series great and small...